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No. 574.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, see No. 537.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1908.



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No. 574.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 537.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate,
10th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Nyasaland Protectorate for the year 1907-8.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED SHARPE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

I.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

1. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year 1907-8 was £75,197, exclusive of the grant-in-aid, being £5,733 below the estimate and £6,909 less than during the preceding financial year.

The decrease was chiefly due to a falling off in customs revenue of £6,828, and port, harbour, and wharf dues of £1,243. Native hut tax revenue increased by £986 and postal receipts by £177.

EXPENDITURE.

2. The total expenditure for the year was £105,587, being £5,430 less than estimated and £5,977 less than in 1906-7. The chief decrease was under "military," £26,146 being expended as against £35,642 in 1906-7, a saving of £9,496.

3. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years,—

			Revenue.				Expenditure.
			£				£
1903-4	...	...	75,895	...	...	...	102,527
1904-5	...	...	67,553	...	...	...	122,771
1905-6	...	...	76,738	...	...	...	108,682
1906-7	...	...	82,106	...	...	...	111,564
1907-8	...	...	75,197	...	...	...	105,587

II.—TRADE.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

4. Trade conditions have remained normal during the past year, but a falling off in native trade has been experienced in consequence of the suspension of recruiting of Nyasaland native labourers for the Transvaal mines, and the completion of earth-works and other operations requiring a large number of labourers on the railway. The amount of money in circulation having fallen off, native trade has been depressed accordingly. This is emphasised by the fact that specie to the value of £14,233 was exported during the year.

The following statement shows the value of imports and exports during the past five years, not including goods in transit:—

		Imports for Home Consumption.		Exports of Protectorate Products.	
		£		£	
1903-4	207,686	...	27,409
1904-5	220,697	...	48,449
1905-6	222,581	...	56,778
1906-7	242,935	...	50,247
1907-8	169,541	...	68,604

Imports.

5. Imports, including railway material and specie, amounted to £169,541, or £73,394 less than during the previous year. The principal decreases were in soft goods, which are less than the previous year's total by £58,123; specie, £9,100, and hardware, £2,909. The value of railway material imported rose from £35,575 to £37,974. General details are shown in the following table:—

—				1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£	£
Arms and ammunition	...	...	...	1,976	1,486	—	490
Alcohol (spirituous liquors)	...	...	...	2,518	2,363	—	155
Provisions (including beer and wines).	...	...	...	19,343	19,445	102	—
Hardware	...	...	...	13,802	10,893	—	2,909
Soft goods	...	...	...	128,587	70,464	—	58,123
Free goods	...	...	...	56,199	57,856	1,657	—
Sundries	...	...	...	11,410	7,034	—	4,376
Specie	...	...	...	9,100	—	—	9,100
Total	...	...	...	242,935	169,541	1,759	75,153

Net decrease, £73,394.

Exports.

6. The export trade has increased by £18,357, including specie, value £14,233. The principal increases were in coffee, £6,792, and tobacco, £2,350. Cotton decreased by £1,346, beeswax by £1,032, and ground-nuts, £1,346.

Statistics are shown in the following tables:—

(A.) EXPORTS during the year ended the 31st March, 1908, as compared with the previous year:—

	1906-7.			1907-8.			Increase.		Decrease.	
	Weight.	Price per lb. (local).	Value.	Weight.	Price per lb. (local).	Value.	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
Coffee ...	Lbs. 454,111	s. 0 d. 5	£ 9,461	Lbs. 780,133	s. 0 d. 5	£ 16,253	Lbs. 326,022	£ 6,792	Lbs. —	£ —
Ivory ...	4,781	7 6	1,793	2,630	10 0	1,315	—	—	2,151	478
Hippopotamus teeth...	297	2 0	29	349	2 0	35	52	6	—	—
Rubber ...	16,403	4 3	3,486	15,533	4 3	3,301	—	—	870	185
Oil seeds ...	14,109	0 4	235	19,917	0 4	332	5,808	97	—	—
Beeswax ...	66,779	1 0	3,339	46,152	1 0	2,307	—	—	20,627	1,032
Strophanthus...	31,477	2 6	3,935	29,394	2 6	3,674	—	—	2,083	261
Chillies ...	6,336	0 4	106	32,419	0 4	540	26,083	434	—	—
Tobacco ...	413,316	0 4	6,889	554,395	0 4	9,239	141,079	2,350	—	—
Cotton...	526,119	0 7	15,345	403,486	7d., 8d., 9d.	13,999	—	—	122,633	1,346
Ground-nuts ...	487,663	1d. & 1½d.	2,930	183,789	0 1½	1,149	—	—	303,874	1,781
Sundries ...	—	—	1,590	—	—	2,227	—	637	—	—
Specie ...	—	—	1,109	—	—	14,233	—	13,124	—	—
Totals ...	2,021,391	—	50,247	2,068,197	—	68,604	499,044	23,440	452,238	5,083

(B.) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1906-7.	1907-8.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	192,552	128,994	32,663	38,974
India	8,115	10,704	—	—
Australia	527	565	—	—
South Africa	902	934	—	14,871
Transvaal	2,699	—	6,674	6,404
Total British Possessions	12,243	12,203	6,674	21,275
Germany	27,473	11,559	5,070	5,211
Italy	917	1,206	—	—
Holland	3,933	9,003	—	—
Portugal	1,834	2,717	—	2,413
America	197	840	—	—
France	1,510	1,286	—	—
Other Countries	2,276	1,733	5,840	731
Total Foreign Countries	38,140	28,344	10,910	8,355
Total	242,935	169,541	50,247	68,604

(C.) COMPARATIVE TABLE.

Imports and Exports.

The total values of imports and exports (not including goods in transit), as compared with the previous year, are as follows:—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£
Trade imports	192,258	125,242
Government imports	6,002	6,325
Railway material	35,575	37,974
Specie	9,100	—
Total imports	242,935	169,541
„ exports	50,247	68,604
Grand total	293,182	238,145

Decrease, £55,037.

Transit Trade.

7. The value of goods imported in transit to surrounding territories from countries oversea, amounted to £15,422. Including goods which passed in transit between surrounding

territories the total transit trade amounted in value to £19,041, which is £1,361 less than the total for 1906-7.

Transit exports consist principally of products of surrounding territories which pass through this Protectorate in transit and are exported oversea. The total exports during the year amounted to £4,223, which is £15,632 under the total for the previous year. The previous year, however, included gold-dust to the value of £17,310, disregarding which there is an increase of £1,678.

Trade Prospects.

8. It is not anticipated that there will be any appreciable increase in imports during 1908-9, bearing in mind the fact that there is already a large stock of soft goods in the hands of merchants. It is considered, however, that the export trade will show a marked improvement. The cotton crops in the Shire river valley (which failed in 1906-7) promise to be heavy, and larger areas are under this crop in the Shire highlands. A stimulus will also be given to tobacco-growing by the opening of a buying dépôt in Blantyre by the Imperial Tobacco Company, which will do away with the necessity for small planters exporting their own crops and awaiting returns. The cultivation of coffee is being further extended, and as the past rainy season has been a good one, an increase in the export of this article is certain.

Shipping.

9. There has been a decided improvement in the navigability of the Shire river during the past year in comparison with the preceding three seasons. The smaller steamers were able to reach Chiromo till the month of August, and the river again became navigable for all classes of vessels in November and maintained a steady level.

There are 134 vessels on the Chiromo Register of Shipping, classified as follows:—Steamers, 19; barges, 98; and boats, 17. These vessels carried “inwards”—5,777 tons of cargo and 1,211 passengers (of whom 310 were Europeans), and “outwards”—1,777 tons of cargo and 253 European passengers; a total of 6,954 tons and 563 Europeans.

On Lake Nyasa 762 tons of cargo and 60 European and 2,480 native passengers were carried by the Government steamers and 640 tons and 48 European and 319 native passengers by trading steamers. On the Upper Shire the Government steamer and lighters carried 733 tons of cargo and 73 European and 2,790 native passengers.

The bar at the south end of Lake Nyasa, Mponda flats, Malombe bar, and Nandumbo, have been dredged and staked where necessary, and permanent gangs of men have been employed to keep a wide channel clear of weeds and sudd on the Upper Shire river between Lake Nyasa and Liwonde.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

Coffee.

10. This industry was commenced in the year 1894 and coffee still heads the list of exports.

Climatic conditions have been good during the past season, and planters are hopeful of a heavy crop of good quality. The total export from the 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908, was 780,133 lbs., valued at £16,253. This is an increase of 326,022 lbs. on the previous year.

Prices have improved of late. They are, however, not yet sufficiently high to enable planters to make the profit possible ten years ago, but it is hoped that the present somewhat restricted output in Brazil will have the effect of hardening the coffee market.

The following table shows the acreage under cultivation, and the production and values for the last five years, the export value being placed at 5*d.* per lb., from this season's crop:—

Year.			Total Acreage under Cultivation.	Crop exported at 31st March of each year.	Valued at
					£
1904	...	...	8,867	714,743	17,869
1905	...	...	4,880	1,303,655	27,159
1906	...	...	5,273	773,919	16,123
1907	...	...	5,565	454,111	9,461
1908	...	...	6,134	780,133	16,253

Tobacco.

11. The cultivation of tobacco has become established as a standard industry of the country within the last few years. During the past year 554,395 lbs. were exported, valued at £9,239, as against 413,316 lbs. during 1906-7.

Owing to a drought in January, 1907, and a subsequent prolonged rainy season, the quality of the crop was not up to the average.

South Africa has hitherto been the most important buyer of Nyasaland tobacco, but that market became so overloaded and depressed that the United Kingdom was tried with satisfactory results.

Owing to the prevailing low local prices in force last season, the acreage under cultivation has diminished somewhat, but now that the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland has established a buying factory near Blantyre, a considerable incentive to the production of Nyasaland tobacco

has been the result, and the acreage under this crop is rising steadily.

This factory is equipped with the best and latest machinery for dealing with the crop, and as the Company is paying cash for all purchases, planters get an immediate return, and are relieved of the technical work of sorting, grading, and packing.

The quality of the tobacco produced for the next few years will have a considerable influence on the future prosperity of the Protectorate, and it is anticipated that a large and lucrative tobacco-growing industry will be the result.

As regards the crop which is now being picked, the quality of the leaf is much superior to that of last year owing to a good rainy season, and a crop of 400 tons is estimated. There are 119 barns available for curing.

The following table shows the acreage and export for the last five years, the export value being fixed at 4*d.* per lb.

Year.	Total Acreage under Cultivation.	Crop exported at 31st March of each year.	Valued at
			£
1904	944	28,914	481
1905	421	56,826	947
1906	955	198,994	3,317
1907	2,330	413,316	6,889
1908	1,843	554,395	9,239

Cotton (European Cultivation).

12. The following are the particulars of the European cotton industry for the past five years:—

Year.	Total Acreage under European Cultivation.	Crop exported to 31st March.	Export Valuation.
		lb.	£
1903-4	7,000	56,577	1,777
1904-5	21,900	285,185	5,914
1905-6	10,012	776,621	16,180
1906-7	7,017	526,119	15,345
1907-8	8,659	403,486	13,999

The results of the past year were poor both on the Highlands and on the lower levels. In the latter case the crops were affected by a drought in January, 1907, whilst the prolonged rainy season seriously interfered with the cropping of cotton

in the Highlands, only 180 tons of lint being exported, the quality of which was not up to the usual standard of Nyasaland cotton.

Cotton is now being thoroughly tested on 63 estates, both in the Highlands and on the river levels. The approximate acreage in the two regions is 3,200 in the Highlands, and 5,500 on the lower levels, and as they are quite distinct for agricultural purposes, they will be dealt with separately.

(a) *Highlands*.—The American variety is grown successfully. The yield is still low, as the average per acre is only from 120 to 130 lbs., but with cheap labour this crop is a commercial success.

More attention is being given to increasing the yield and raising the quality of the product by careful seed selection, manuring, and good cultivation.

(b) *Lower Levels*.—The Egyptian variety is grown in the Shire river districts, and on Lake Nyasa, but the results so far have not been altogether encouraging. The quality of the produce is excellent, and as much as 147 lbs. per acre have been cropped in good years.

Could this figure be maintained everything would be well, but the Egyptian plant is very susceptible to bacterial blight or angular leaf spot, against which no methods at present known to science are of the least avail as a direct remedy. Preventive methods only can be practised, and if these are persisted in it is hoped that the plant may eventually become so thoroughly acclimatised that it will be enabled to withstand the very trying conditions which sometimes prevail in these districts. Climatic causes are entirely responsible for this as far as is at present known. The yield is thus reduced to 60 or 70 lbs. per acre, and the quality leaves much to be desired, but with careful expenditure and a fairly large acreage under cultivation, no loss need be incurred.

Insect pests have been far less in evidence than usual. The facilities for ginning and baling are still poor, whilst the cost— $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.—is too high to give the small producer a fair chance.

The industry can now be confidently stated to be on a sound commercial basis and thoroughly established, and the prospects of the crop now being picked are favourable in the extreme.

Native-grown Cotton.

Last season's native crop amounted to $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons, or approximately one-third of that produced in the two previous years. Each district has produced much less, the fall being most noticeable in Mlanje, whilst the Lower Shire district has taken the premier position for the year.

The season was extremely bad for cotton, and the January drought affected most seriously those districts where native

production was the heaviest. A famine appeared imminent, and cultivators applied the whole of their energies to food crops so that cotton was for the time neglected.

The present native cotton crop, however, promises to be the largest yet produced. There has been a big demand for seed, and 17 tons have been distributed free. The natives of the Lower Shire district are evincing some eagerness, and the Resident has registered over 1,800 plots of from half to one acre under native cultivation, and a crop of 200 tons of cotton in the seed is expected from this district alone.

The native gardens throughout the Protectorate convey the impression that natives are taking up cotton seriously, keeping them free from weeds, and taking care of the product when picked.

The seed distributed was all locally-grown, and to some extent acclimatised. American only was sent into the Highlands, and Egyptian to the lower levels.

The planting season was good and the results this year will, it is hoped, be highly satisfactory to the growers. A small village near Fort Lister has already received over £6 for its crop, and has more cotton to pick. This cotton was a good sample, and delivered in clean condition, so that the European buyer felt highly satisfied with it.

The industry is still being encouraged under considerable disadvantages as compared with other parts of Africa, but it is anticipated that this season will see cotton-growing firmly established amongst the natives of the Protectorate.

Small cotton gardens have been maintained under the supervision of the Residents at Port Herald, Chikwawa, Neno, Liwonde, Ncheu, Lilongwe, Dowa, Dedza, Chintechi, and Karonga.

Tea.

13. The cultivation of this product is still confined to the Mlanje district, where the soils and climate are well suited to its growth.

There are now 516 acres under tea, and this is being increased yearly. The crop for 1907-8 is stated to have been $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons are estimated for the present year. Much of the tea at present produced is consumed in the country. Tea cultivation is not taken up with eagerness by planters, as a period of five or six years has to elapse before any return is made on the capital expended.

It is well known that the quality of tea improves as the bush matures, and those who tasted the locally-grown and manufactured article three years ago, now report that a great improvement has taken place in the quality. Tea unfortunately requires a good deal of capital, but it is understood that it can be produced in this country at a cheaper rate than is possible

in India or Ceylon. As soon, therefore, as Nyasaland tea obtains a footing on the London market, it should draw attention to this country as a possible field for the investment of capital.

A small plot has been planted up with tea in the experimental gardens at Zomba, with a view to ascertaining whether this product can be successfully grown in the Zomba district. The plants were put out in December, and so far have made excellent growth.

Rubber.

14. Although the export of cultivated rubber at present is by no means considerable, the acreage which is being brought under this product is increasing. Plantations have been established in nearly every district of the Highlands, the variety chiefly favoured being Ceara (*Manihot Glaziovii*). The growth of the young plant is remarkable, and in three years good stout trees are obtained; the oldest plantations of any considerable size are now about three and a half years old, and as tapping usually commences in the fifth year, the whole cultivation will soon be put to the proof. The main difficulty with this variety is the extraction of the rubber, but as the plant is now being experimented with by rubber experts all over the world, it may be assumed that the problem of extraction will soon be satisfactorily solved. In this country there is no doubt that the plant has found a congenial home, and as it produces excellent rubber—samples having been highly reported on in the London market—the future of the industry seems good, provided that the present low prices for this product are not permanent.

During the past year 1,119 lbs. of rubber produced on plantations was exported as against 972 lbs. in 1906-7, and 523 lbs. in 1905-6.

Acreage under Cultivation.

District			Variety.			Acres planted.
Lower Shire	...	...	Ceara	...	...	20
West Shire	...	...	"	...	...	52½
Blantyre	...	...	"	...	...	965½
"	...	...	Castilloa	...	...	25
Mlanje	...	...	Ceara	...	...	62
Zomba	...	...	"	...	...	637
Chikala	...	...	"	...	...	280
Upper Shire	...	...	"	...	...	124
West Nyasa	...	...	Funtumia	...	...	1
"	...	...	Ceara	...	...	3
"	...	...	Castilloa	...	...	25
"	...	...	Para	...	...	124
"	...	...	Landolphia	...	...	Large acreage
North Nyasa	...	...	Ceara	...	...	100

The total export of uncultivated rubber during 1907-8 was 15,533 lbs., valued at £3,301.

One hundred plants of *Funtumia elastica* (Lagos rubber), raised from seed received from Uganda, were planted out in the Botanical Gardens at Zomba during the rains. A number of *Funtumia* plants were also distributed to planters in various parts of the Protectorate for trial on their estates.

Fibres.

15. Ramie (*Boehmeria nivea*). Cultural experiments conducted with this fibre during the year have shown that the plant is unsuitable for successful cultivation in this country. The Ramie plot in the experimental garden, although irrigated and well cultivated during the year, produced only two crops of stems during the past season, the average length of the stems of the first crop being about three feet only. The second crop was not reaped, as the stems attained a height of about two and a half feet only. Several planters have also been experimenting with Ramie during the past two or three years, but without success. The plants are exceedingly easy of cultivation, but in order to produce abundant and frequent crops of stems of good length (four to five feet) the climate must be moist and stimulating.

Sisal Hemp (*Agave rigida*, var. *sisalana*). Many of the planters are now devoting a certain amount of attention to the cultivation of this valuable fibre, and during the past year about 30,000 young plants were sent out by the Forestry and Botanical Department, the demand being far in excess of the supply. Next planting season a large number of plants will be available for distribution.

From experiments conducted, it was found that 50 leaves of sisal yielded just over 3 lbs. of clean fibre. This, it may be stated, compares favourably with the average yield from sisal plantations in Yucatan, where the quantity of fibre obtained from 1,000 leaves is said to be from 50 to 70 lbs., the annual yield of clean fibre per acre varying from 10 to 15 cwts., according to the number of plants.

Mauritius Hemp (*Furcraea gigantea*). The cultivation of this fibre is also being taken up by several planters in conjunction with sisal. During the past season, however, few applications were made for *Furcraea* plants, as large quantities of these are now easily obtainable from growers in the country.

With suitable machinery to treat the leaves of sisal and Mauritius hemp, there seems to be no reason why an important fibre industry should not be established in Nyasaland, especially in the Blantyre and Lower Shire districts, seeing that the profits on a sisal plantation of 1,000 acres or so in German East Africa (where labour is certainly not plentiful and costs three times as much as it does in Nyasaland) are said to be as high as 40 per cent.

Bowstring Hemp (*Sansevierias*). Although several species of this indigenous fibre plant are found growing in abundance in various parts of the Protectorate, its cultivation has not yet been attempted by planters, as the growth of the plant is though to be much too slow for remunerative cultivation, in this country.

Ginger.

16. This plant is being extensively propagated and the ginger plot in the experimental garden now contains 2,000 strong plants, all of which have been derived from two small plants of ginger received from Kew in 1901.

Until a fairly large stock of plants is available to work on, the propagation of ginger is a very slow process, as the method employed is by division of the roots or rhizomes. During the ensuing year about 1,000 plants will be available for distribution.

This product will no doubt be taken up by planters so soon as plants are available for the purpose, as it is well suited for cultivation as a by-product. Well-prepared ginger fetches from 50s. to 70s. per cwt. in the home market.

AFFORESTATION.

17. *Zomba*.—During the past rainy season an area of about 35 acres on the Zomba mountain plateau was planted up with Mlanje cypress.

The aggregate area of the cypress plantations now established on the plateau and on the slopes of Zomba mountain is approximately 100 acres.

As these cypress plantations are being formed with the object of producing high-class timber (*i.e.*, tall, straight poles, free of branches and non-tapering), and as such timber can be produced only by dense planting, the plants are being put out at the rate of about 3,500 to the acre.

10,000 eucalyptus trees were planted out in December, and on the whole the plants have made a good stand, and are now growing well.

Blantyre.—About 17,000 eucalyptus, raised in the nursery at Blantyre during the year, were planted out on Crown land at Soche.

A large quantity of mbawa (mahogany) seed has been sown in a nursery at Soche with the object of raising plants for the planting programme of 1908-9.

Mlanje.—The forestry work at Mlanje during the year was confined to timber cutting and the protection of the cypress forests from fires. The sawing of timber was carried on during the dry months only (*i.e.*, April to October inclusive); the quantity of wood sawn for Government Departments during that period was 78,500 lineal feet, of various dimensions.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

18. The following Ordinances have been enacted during the year (1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908):—

- (1) “The Fugitive Criminals Surrender Ordinance, 1907,” No. 2 of 1907.
- (2) “The British Central Africa Appropriation Ordinance, 1907,” No. 3 of 1907.
- (3) “The Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes Ordinance, 1907,” No. 4 of 1907.
- (4) “The Native Hut Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1907,” No. 5 of 1907.
- (5) “The Fugitive Criminals Surrender Amendment Ordinance, 1907,” No. 6 of 1907.
- (6) “The Railway Ordinance, 1907,” No. 7 of 1907.

The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1 of 1907, was repealed and replaced by “The British Central Africa Appropriation Ordinance, 1907.” No Ordinances were enacted during the first three months of 1908.

V.—EDUCATION.

19. There are no Government schools in the Protectorate, native education being in the hands of the missionary societies established in various districts.

During the past year Government made a grant of £1,000 in aid of primary education, to be allocated under certain conditions to those societies desirous of participating.

There are 839 schools in the Protectorate, the majority of which are “village schools” (*i.e.*, schools in charge of native teachers, superintended by Europeans from the headquarters of the missions) at which 61,712 natives receive instruction, the average attendance being 39,523.

There are 44 Europeans engaged in literary education and 31 in technical.

As an instance of the advance made in primary education it may be stated that during the year circulars in the various vernaculars dealing with questions needing the attention and support of the natives, such as cotton cultivation, locust destruction, &c., have been distributed by Residents throughout the villages in the Protectorate, and very little difficulty is now

experienced by the inhabitants in reading and understanding the directions given.

The following table details the work of each Society :—

—	No. of schools.	No. of scholars on roll and in average attendance.				Number of Europeans engaged in education.		Amount of Government grant in aid.
		No. on roll.		Average No. in attendance.		Literary.	Technical.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			
Universities Mission to Central Africa.	59	2,211	1,259	1,562	762	10	11	£ Nil*
Dutch Reformed Church Mission.	155	8,599	6,981	5,038	4,180	10	5	125
Church of Scotland Mission.	89	2,851	648	1,728	360	4	9	275
Livingstonia Mission ..	402	19,208	9,604	12,166	6,088	8	5	275
Nyasa Industrial Mission	11	547	80	305	45	3	—	25
Zambesi Industrial Mission	64	2,466	1,424	1,771	955	3	1	125
White Fathers	33	2,162	1,572	1,727	1,186	—	—	125
Baptist Industrial Mission.	20		Not obtainable			4	—	25
South Africa General Mission.	3		Not obtainable.			2	—	25
Marist Fathers	3	1,200	900	950	700	—	—	Nil*
Total	839	39,244	22,408	25,247	14,276	44	31	1,000

* The Universities Mission and the Marist Fathers Mission decided not to participate in the 1907-8 grant.

Native artisans are trained in the industrial schools attached to the headquarters of most of the Missions, where carpentering, printing, bookbinding, agriculture, horticulture, and other practical trades are taught, much to the benefit of local industries.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

20. In the year 1907-8, 2,014 offences were reported as against 1,818 in 1906-7. As usual the commonest causes of misbehaviour were matrimonial disputes, assault, and larceny. In the larger European settlements there have been a considerable number of burglaries, some of a very audacious character. In no instance, however, has any considerable sum of money or much valuable property been taken.

Eighty-three cases were sent up to the High Court for confirmation as against 52 in 1906-7. In 75 instances the

sentences of the subordinate Courts were confirmed, and in eight modified. The 83 cases are made up as follows :—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Child murder...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other offences against the person	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Malicious injury to property	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other offences against property	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
							—
							83
							—

As heretofore, manslaughter cases form a large proportion of the total. There were, however, three clear cases of murder, in which no circumstances could be found in mitigation of the extreme penalty.

The question of the administration of corporal punishment to natives remained in abeyance pending the first session of the Legislative Council, and has only recently been dealt with by the Council. The "Punishments Ordinance," which concerns this most important question has, however, only passed through the Legislative Council after the expiration of the year under review, and therefore does not come within the scope of this report. It suffices to say that the need for further legislation on this question was universally recognised, and the draft Ordinance received very careful consideration.

The most important Ordinance from the magistrates' point of view published in the past year was "The Hut Tax Amendment Ordinance," which authorises imprisonment upon insufficient distress for non-payment of hut tax. This amendment of the law was much needed.

Twenty-three estates of deceased persons have been wound-up during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

21. The European population is returned at 587, as against 583, 608, and 597 in the three preceding years.

22. The Asiatic population has remained practically stationary, viz., 515.

23. The native population is estimated at 947,168, an increase of 19,813, due chiefly to continued immigration from neighbouring territories, and to more accurate statistics being available.

24. Thirteen European deaths were registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 22·1 per 1,000.

25. The European birth-rate shows a decrease from 32·59 per 1,000 to 25·55, 15 births having been registered.

26. Six European marriages were celebrated as against seven during 1906-7.

VIII.—POSTAL.

GENERAL REMARKS.

27. The unit of weight on all letter correspondence was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz., and sample post rates were lowered from 4*d.* per 4 oz. to 1*d.* per 4 oz.

Owing to the German East Africa Line of steamers having reduced the sailings of their fast boats to once every three weeks, it was found necessary to arrange for some other route for correspondence addressed to places abroad. About the middle of June, therefore, an arrangement was put in force for the despatch of mails for London via Beira and Salisbury, catching the Union Castle boats at Cape Town.

A further improvement has been made in the case of correspondence for South Africa, which now goes via Beira or Delagoa Bay in a direct bag to Johannesburg, which last office acts as distributing agent.

On 1st of April a direct money order exchange with Zanzibar was started.

A new issue of postage stamps has been arranged for in consequence of the change of name of the Protectorate to "Nyasaland." A $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* issue has been ordered to provide for the reduced rate to be charged on newspapers, and a new 3*d.* value will take the place of the old 2*d.* stamp.

Money Orders.

28. The value of money orders issued in the Protectorate was £12,627 as against £13,253 last year.

Imperial Exchanges.

29. The transactions with these orders have been practically doubled within the year, the sales being £4,959 and payments £1,399 as against £2,879 and £664 respectively during 1906-7.

Parcel Post.

30. Goods to the value of £3,914 were imported by parcel post as against £3,647 last year.

Statistics.

31. The total number of postal articles dealt with was 1,101,917 as compared with 612,284 last year :—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
Letters	434,126	866,632
Post cards	19,898	31,888
Newspapers	98,168	155,468
Book packets, &c.	55,211	42,644
Parcels	4,805	5,078
Closed bags	76	207
	<hr/> 612,284 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,101,917 <hr/>

IX.—MILITARY.

DISTRIBUTION AND MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

32. The distribution was the same as in the previous year (1906-7) namely :—

Zomba.—Indian contingent and 2 Companies 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.

Fort Manning.—1 Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.

Fort Mlangeni.— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.

Fort Mangoche.— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.

The troops, with the exception of the Indian contingent, exchanged stations in May, 1907, every company being moved at that time. In March, 1908, the African troops were withdrawn to Zomba prior to the departure of the 2nd Battalion to British East Africa; they were relieved at the out-stations by detachments of the Indian contingent, which will garrison these posts until the 1st Battalion takes them over in June or July.

Training.

33. The Zomba garrison went into camp by companies for 14 days' field training in August and September, 1907. The results of the annual musketry course were satisfactory and show an improvement upon those of previous years, although it is somewhat difficult to compare them owing to an alteration in the course.

Figure of Merit—Indian contingent ...	63
	<hr/> 17
“ “ 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles ...	109
	<hr/> 81

Band.

34. The military band has made good progress and has played regularly in public at Zomba and has paid occasional visits to Blantyre.

Health.

35. The general health of the troops has been very good ; that of the Indian contingent being exceptionally satisfactory. A serious outbreak of small-pox took place at Mangoché in March, 1908, and over 60 cases occurred ; several women and children died of this disease, but there were no deaths amongst the troops ; the epidemic has now ceased.

Statistical Information.

—	British Officers.	Native Officers.	Rank and File.	Band.	Hospital Assistants.	Indian Clerks.	Indian Followers.
Indian con- tingent.	2	2	98	—	1	1	14
2nd K.A.R....	12	—	400	30	3	3	—

Enlistments, 21 ; discharges, 16 ; desertions, 6 ; death, 1.

36. Distribution by tribes including the band :—

Yao and kindred tribes	...	...	...	209.
Awemba	...	...	...	100
Angoni...	...	...	...	96
Atonga and kindred tribes	...	...	...	21

Volunteer Reserve.

37. The strength of the reserve has been well maintained, and at the end of the financial year numbered 122, made up as follows :—

Zomba	...	...	38
Blantyre	...	...	39
Fort Johnston	...	...	22
Chiromo	...	...	23
			122

The corps was re-armed with the new short-barrel magazine rifle, and a higher shooting standard during 1908-9 is anticipated.

Each corps held monthly shooting meetings and competitions and, in addition, the ranges were available for practice every week.

The need for the revision of the existing Regulations of 1901 has been apparent for some time, and a Volunteer Ordinance, to meet the altered conditions, is now under consideration.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

38. General conditions have been satisfactory. The native population is orderly and contented. The food supply for the coming year is practically assured, and health conditions have been good, except for outbreaks of small-pox, which have been unusually virulent, but have been kept well in hand.

A certain amount of unrest was caused during the early part of the year, owing to the appearance of a "prophetess," a Chikunda woman known as "Chanjiri," who promulgated a doctrine to the effect that all Europeans would leave the country during the year, and that no hut tax need be paid to the British Government, but that she would receive tribute instead. Owing to Chanjiri having removed from British to Portuguese control it was somewhat difficult to deal with her, and the credulity of the native is such that many returned to their villages and abandoned their work to await the fulfilment of the prophecies and consequent exodus of Europeans which was to follow. Many also visited her with tribute, and returned with promises of abundant harvests, and stories as to the downfall of the dominant race. No active resistance resulted from the propaganda, but the teaching seriously affected native revenue for a time, the May hut tax returns showing a shortage of over £3,000 as compared with the previous year. The active steps taken by the Residents of districts concerned, however, in personally visiting the villages affected, and tactfully dealing with the passive resistance which followed, and the subsequent non-fulfilment of the prophecies, finally overcame the results of the propaganda, and the unrest caused thereby may be said to have disappeared.

Hut Tax.

39. A satisfactory increase is shown on last year's total, the aggregate being £36,605 as against £35,619 for the preceding year, an increase of £986.

Hut tax revenue for the past five years is as follows :—

				£
1903-4	...	...	...	26,276
1904-5	...	...	...	29,024
1905-6	...	...	...	31,074
1906-7	...	...	...	35,619
1907-8	...	...	...	36,605

Labour.

40. The local labour supply has been greater than in any previous year, and even during the rains a steady supply was maintained. No further recruitment of labour for the Transvaal by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association took place during the year. Of the 500 Nyasaland natives recruited at the close of 1906, 452 returned to the Protectorate in February, 1908, having worked their allotted time; 14 were returned as unfitted for mining work on arrival, and 34 died, showing a death-rate of 68 per thousand per annum.

1,400 natives were, as an experiment, allowed to proceed to the Mopea sugar works on the Zambesi, with satisfactory results—this work being extremely popular owing to the short time taken in travelling, the suitable climate, and the considerate treatment received.

Arrangements were made towards the close of the financial year for an experimental gang of 1,000 men to proceed to Southern Rhodesia, under the auspices of the Southern Rhodesia Government, for mining work.

The system of deferred half-pay is applied in all cases, under which natives receive their arrears of pay on return to Blantyre or Zomba.

The independent and uncontrolled exodus of natives to Southern Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa in search of comparatively highly-paid work still continues, and it is estimated that upwards of 18,000 men (in addition to those despatched under Government auspices) have thus left the Protectorate during the year. 1,239 purchased passes were issued on application and 302 issued free, but by far the greater number of natives went independently without passes, and of these no exact records exist. Many of them had previously attempted to obtain work within the Protectorate, but as the local demand is limited, were impelled south in order to earn money to meet their wants.

Communications are received from time to time from Native Commissioners in Southern Rhodesia and Government officials in other parts of South Africa, remitting sums to the relatives of Nyasaland natives, or in connection with estates of deceased labourers, but of the majority there is little or no trace. Much of this labour might be recruited for the Transvaal, but as this

market is now closed, and the local demand for labour is at present far less than the supply, natives are forced to seek their own work, often having to walk hundreds of miles and suffer great hardships on their journeys.

Experience points to the advisability of a resumption of a Government-controlled system under which natives desiring to go south for work, whether to Rhodesia or the Transvaal Colony, can do so under definite conditions, and with greater ease, and in more comfort than is at present the case.

XI.—GENERAL.

GAME.

41. The total number of head killed during the year under licence, according to the returns made by licence holders, was 2,261, made up as follows :—Elephants, 24 ; rhinoceroses, 2 ; hippopotami, 31 ; zebra, 52 ; sable and roan, 132 ; kudu, 44 ; serval, 2 ; cheetah, 2 ; smaller monkeys, 2 ; marabouts, 8 ; egrets, 15 ; oribi, 40 ; wild pig, 44 ; jackal, 2 ; warthog, 112 ; bush pig, 57 ; hartebeeste, 214 ; impala, 121 ; reedbuck, 374 ; duiker, 151 ; klipspringer, 38 ; steinbuck, 58 ; waterbuck, 334 ; bushbuck, 303 ; puku, 16 ; inyala, 14.

Under special permits granted by the Governor under the “Game Regulations, 1902,” 19 eland and seven buffalo were killed. Twelve lions, 19 leopards, and 3 hyænas were also returned as killed by licence holders.

The following licences were issued :—

				£	
Licence “A”	...	...	...	25	20
„ “B”	...	...	...	4	84
„ “C”	...	...	...	2	94
Native licence	...	...	...		38
					<hr/> 236 <hr/>

LIVE STOCK.

42. No serious epidemics occurred during the year, although certain districts had to be closed for short periods to the movement of cattle, owing to local cattle sickness. Owners of large herds are still holding their stock in the hope of a market nearer than Southern Rhodesia and easier of access.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE



The total number of European- and native-owned live stock is as follows :—

—			European.	Native.
				(Approximate.)
Cattle	...	...	10,653	40,996
Sheep	...	...	2,010	14,724
Goats	...	...	1,060	92,053
Pigs	...	...	426	19,515

Large numbers of native-owned sheep and goats have been sold during the year.

RAILWAY.

43. Progress has been made during the year. Earthworks were sufficiently completed for present use from mile 74 to Blantyre, with the exception of gaps opposite the temporary deviations on which the track is laid. Temporary bridges have been built, and the line has been partially ballasted, and has been put into such condition as admits of its temporary use.

The labour supply for construction purposes was plentiful, the average number of labourers employed being 4,800.

Work on the Shire River Bridge was commenced in October, 1907, but owing to the rains little progress was possible until March.

I have, &c.,

H. R. WALLIS,

Acting Deputy Governor.

Zomba,

9th July, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, &c.						Year.
540	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	...	"
544	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	"
546	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	"
547	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	1906
548	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	"
549	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	"
551	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
552	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	1906
553	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	1906
555	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
559	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	"
560	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	1907
561	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	"
562	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
563	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	"
564	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	1907
567	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	"
568	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	"
569	Wei-hai-wei	...	...	...	...	...	"
570	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	"
571	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	1907
573	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.			Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	...	...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	...	...	Mineral Survey, (1904-5).
47	Do. do.	...	...	Do. (1905-6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	...	...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c....	...	...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	...	...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	...	...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland	...	...	Micmac Indians.